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BARNSTAPLE RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1966

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TELEPHONE: BARNSTAPLE 5781

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
THE RED HOUSE,
CASTLE STREET,
BARNSTAPLE

To: The Chairman and Members
of the Barnstaple Rural District Council.

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen

I submit herewith my report on the health and statistics of the District for the year 1966.

The Registrar General's estimated mid-year population for the Rural District was 27,560, representing an increase of 470 persons over the population of the previous year.

The total live births rose from 397 in 1965 to 426, and deaths increased from 346 to 390. There was thus a radical increase in population of 36 persons which is somewhat less than occurred in previous years, but nevertheless the population of the district continues to expand.

There were 9 infant deaths under the age of 1 year, the majority were due to either a congenital abnormality or prematurity, but two infants died as a result of bronchitis and gastro-enteritis. The infant mortality rate rose from 4.93 to 21.1 per 1000 live births.

There were 29 illegitimate births which is 6.8% of the total live births for the year. Two illegitimate infants under the age of 1 year died - giving an infant death rate for illegitimate children of 6.9% as compared to the death rate amongst legitimate infants of 2%. Heart and circulatory diseases caused 61.8% of all deaths, cancer 14.1% and respiratory disease 7.4%. Of all deaths, 54% occurred in the 75 years and over age group.

Concerning the infectious diseases, the greater majority notified were measles. Lung tuberculosis continues its very gradual decline. Four cases were notified, one of which included an elderly person with a positive sputum. He was admitted to hospital, but died some weeks later. All close contacts were examined and x-rayed.

An outbreak of sonne dysentery occurred in a private residential school. In all twelve boys were affected. Normally in a closed community such as this the disease could have spread very rapidly to have involved the whole school. The spread of infection was, however, limited by the rigorous daily disinfection and toilet hygiene enforced by the school matron.

One case of undulant fever was reported in an adult male. This person had no contact with farm animals, the source of his infection being most probably the consumption of raw untreated milk. Brucella abortus organisms were reported present in a milk sample taken a few weeks prior to the notification of this case. The farm concerned supplied a considerable number of people with milk, but no other case was reported.

Protective immunization and vaccination amongst infants and young children have virtually eliminated such diseases as diphtheria, smallpox and poliomyelitis - none of which were reported in the district. Four cases of whooping cough were notified however.

I am pleased to report that no food poisoning outbreaks were reported during the year.

I wish to thank the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their guidance and courtesy and the Public Health staff for their assistance throughout the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

E. WILLIAMS

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN:

J. Chugg

VICE-CHAIRMAN:

R. Bowden

COUNCILLORS:

E. B. Adams	G. R. Huxtable	F. J. Ridd-Jones
J. E. Andrew	H. R. Latham	M. A. J. Sexon
H. J. Bailey	S. V. Lewis	G. H. Staddon
G. H. Beard	Mrs N. M. Meeson	W. H. Tanner
Miss E. M. S. Boyd	A. Moon	Rev B. M. Tinsley
W. T. C. Buckingham	W. W. Nott	C. W. Trigger
Mrs C. B. Burgess	C. A. Passmore	R. J. S. Welch
C. Chichester	W. Pengelly	C. G. Yeo
C. H. Cowler	H. B. Richards	W. H. Yeo

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

E. Williams, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

John Kemp, M.A.P.H.I.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS:

F. Whittaker, M.A.P.H.I.

G. C. Dunford, M.A.P.H.I. (from 14th February 1966)

MEAT INSPECTOR:

M. P. Davis, A.R.S.H.

CLERK:

Mrs Y. Mellows

1966

ANNUAL REPORT

of the Medical Officer of Health

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	129,346
Estimated population	...	...	...	...	27,560
Population at 1961 census	...	...	...	...	25,069
Inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	8,986
Number of Council owned houses	...	...	...	...	694
Density of persons per house	...	...	...	...	3.2
Rateable value	...	...	...	...	£ 865,534
Estimated product of penny rate	...	...	...	...	£ 3,536
General rate in the £ for 1966	...	...	...	...	10s.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Area comparability factors	...	...	...	Births	1.22
				Deaths	0.83

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births:					
Number	...	...	...	...	426
Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	15.45
Rate per 1,000 population adjusted by comparability factor					18.85
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	...				6.8%
Stillbirths:					
Number	...	...	...	...	4
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths			...	...	9.03
Total live and stillbirths	...	...	...	...	430
Infant deaths (under 1 year)	...	...	...	...	9
Infant mortality rates:					
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births			...		21.10
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births			...		20.15
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births					34.48
Neo-natal mortality rate (Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)					16.43
Early neo-natal mortality rate					
(deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)					9.38
Perinatal mortality rate					
(Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined, per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	...				18.6
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)	...	...	...		NIL
Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	...	...	...		NIL
Deaths	...	...	...	...	390
Death Rate (per 1,000 population)	...	...	...	...	14.14
(per 1,000 population adjusted by comparability factor)					11.73

POPULATION

The population of the Rural District increased by 470 to 27,560 during the year.

Births exceeded deaths by 36; illegitimate births fell from 32 to 29 (representing 6.8% of total live births).

Out of 426 live births during the year, there were 9 infant deaths; this gives an infant mortality rate of 21.10 per 1,000 births.

POPULATION TRENDS

Year:	Population:		Live Births:		Deaths:
1951 (census)	23,150	...	324	...	314
1952	23,030	...	342	...	322
1953	23,360	...	318	...	257
1953	23,410	...	346	...	296
1955	23,642	...	334	...	316
1956	24,070	...	343	...	302
1957	24,010	...	369	...	300
1958	24,370	...	362	...	276
1959	24,370	...	356	...	294
1960	25,050	...	365	...	272
1961 (census)	25,290	...	338	...	299
1962	25,580	...	353	...	336
1963	26,020	...	434	...	329
1964	26,670	...	428	...	325
1965	27,090	...	405	...	346
1966	27,560	...	426	...	390

BIRTHS

	Live Births:	Males:	Females:	Total:
Legitimate		204	193	397
Illegitimate		15	14	29
		219	207	426
	Stillbirths:	Males:	Females:	Total:
Legitimate		2	2	4
Illegitimate		0	0	0
		2	2	4

DEATHS

During the year there were 390 deaths (193 males and 197 females) as compared with 346 in the previous year.

The following table gives the causes of deaths:-

Cause of Death:		Male:	Female:
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	6	4
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	10	5
Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	-	4
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	-	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms		20	13
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	2	2
Diabetes	...	-	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	32	42
Coronary disease, angina	...	42	34
Hypertension with heart disease	...	1	3
Other heart disease	...	27	47
Other circulatory disease	...	9	4
Influenza	...	2	2
Pneumonia	...	4	8
Bronchitis	...	10	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	...	1	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	3	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	3	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	2	-
Congenital malformations	...	3	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases		11	11
Motor vehicle accidents	...	-	3
All other accidents	...	4	3
Suicide	...	1	1

NEO-NATAL DEATHS:

This represents the number of deaths occurring in infants under the age of four weeks:-

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	3	1	4
Illegitimate	3	0	4

INFANT MORTALITY RATE:

During the year 9 infants (4 males & 5 females) died under the age of one year, giving an infant mortality rate of 21.10

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	3	1	4
Illegitimate	5	0	5

DEATHS IN AGE GROUPS:

Age:	Males	Females	Total
Under 4 weeks	4	3	7
4 weeks to 1 year	0	2	2
1 to 4 years	0	1	1
5 to 14 years	0	1	1
15 to 24 years	1	1	2
25 to 34 years	1	2	3
35 to 44 years	1	0	1
45 to 54 years	16	7	23
55 to 64 years	30	20	50
65 to 74 years	52	41	93
Over 75	88	119	207

CANCER DEATHS

There were 65 deaths from cancer during the year; 7 more than in 1965.

	Males:	Females:	Total:
Stomach	6	4	10
Lung and bronchus	10	5	15
Breast	-	4	4
Uterus	-	3	3
Other	20	13	33
	36	29	65

DEATHS FROM LUNG CANCER:

Year	Males:	Females:	Total:
1952 . . .	5	1	6
1953 . . .	5	2	7
1954 . . .	5	1	6
1955 . . .	5	-	5
1956 . . .	7	-	7
1957 . . .	8	2	10
1958 . . .	9	2	11
1959 . . .	7	2	9
1960 . . .	6	2	8
1961 . . .	9	2	11
1962 . . .	10	-	10
1963 . . .	11	2	13
1964 . . .	12	-	12
1965 . . .	12	-	12
1966 . . .	10	5	15

The total number of cancer deaths since 1952 are shown in the following table:-

Year	Total Deaths	Cancer Deaths		
		Males	Females	Total
1952	322	26	29	55
1953	257	18	27	45
1954	296	20	30	50
1955	316	21	26	47
1956	302	25	30	55
1957	300	31	26	57
1958	276	21	22	43
1959	294	24	28	52
1960	272	20	21	41
1961	299	24	27	51
1962	336	34	37	71
1963	329	34	28	62
1964	325	35	27	62
1965	346	35	23	58
1966	390	36	29	65

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table gives particulars of the infectious diseases notified during the years:

Scarlet Fever	3
Whooping cough	4
Measles	197
Sonne dysentery	12
Acute primary pneumonia	7
Erysipelas	1
Undulant fever	1

Eight cases of tuberculosis (4 cases of lung tuberculosis and 4 no-pulmonary) notified in accordance with the Regulations were as follows:

Age Group	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
1 - 5	-	-	-	-
5 - 14	-	-	-	-
15 - 24	-	-	1	-
25 - 44	-	3	-	-
45 - 54	-	-	-	1
55 - 64	-	-	-	-
65 +	1	-	-	2

LUNG TUBERCULOSIS - DISTRIBUTION OF CASES:

Braunton	...	...	5
Combe Martin	...	...	1
Fremington	...	...	1
Tawstock	...	...	1

INCIDENCE OF PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS SINCE 1951

Year	No. of Cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Case Rate per 1,000 population	No. of Deaths	Death Rate per 1,000 population
1951	23	0.99	7	0.30
1952	21	0.91	6	0.26
1953	24	1.03	3	0.12
1954	11	0.47	-	-
1955	4	0.17	-	-
1956	7	0.29	-	-
1957	5	0.20	1	0.04
1958	5	0.20	1	0.04
1959	4	0.16	1	0.04
1960	6	0.23	-	-
1961	5	0.20	1	0.04
1962	5	0.23	-	-
1963	2	0.075	-	-
1964	2	0.075	-	-
1965	5	0.185	1	0.04
1966	4	0.145	1	0.04

The following table shows the number of cases on the Rural District Tuberculosis Register on 1st January and 31st December:-

1966	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	Males:	Females:	Males:	Females:	
1st January	51	31	8	13	103
31st December	50	33	9	17	109
Total	101	64	17	30	212

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

TUBERCULOSIS

All tuberculosis cases are now treated at Hawkmoor Hospital.

MATERNITY CASES

At the North Devon Infirmary there is a ward of 14 beds with a fully qualified staff available for cases of doubt or difficulty, and there are five beds available for special care babies.

A general practitioners' maternity unit of 13 beds is situate at Highfield, Victoria Road, Barnstaple.

At Bicclescombe Hospital, Ilfracombe, there are 10 beds for maternity and ante-natal patients.

ISOLATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

There is an infectious diseases section at the Kingsley Hospital at Bideford, which serves Barnstaple as well as other local authorities in North Devon. There are 12 beds for infectious diseases and 15 convalescent beds.

SMALLPOX

All smallpox cases are sent to Liskeard Smallpox Hospital. Plymouth Ambulance Service will provide transport for smallpox cases. (Tel: No. Plymouth 64101).

GENERAL

The North Devon Infirmary, situate at Barnstaple, serves the area and provides modern medical and surgical treatment for the residents of the district. There are 113 beds.

Two wards, with a total of 33 beds at the Alexandra Hospital, Barnstaple are set aside as an annexe to the North Devon Infirmary and post-operative and recovery patients are transferred there as soon as possible.

There are 100 beds for the chronic sick at the Alexandra Hospital.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

The Public Health Laboratory is situate at Church Lane, Heavitree, Exeter. It is installed with the necessary equipment for bacteriological examinations of all kinds. Its diagnostic and consultative services are available for all doctors.

Bacteriological examinations of drinking water, milk and ice-cream are also carried out there.

There is a Pathological Laboratory at 75 Boutport Street, Barnstaple with a full-time pathologist and technical staff catering for the needs of the North Devon area.

The blood bank is also situated at this local laboratory.

CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES

V. D. Clinic: This is held at the North Devon Infirmary, Glossop Annexe:-

Sessions

Males - (Mondays - 5.15 p.m.	Females - (Mondays - 4.00 p.m.
(Thursdays - 5.45 p.m.	(Thursdays - 4.30 p.m.

Chest Clinic: The Chest Clinic is held at the North Devon Infirmary, Glossop Annexe:-

Sessions

Tuesdays 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. - Clinic & X-ray examinations.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

Under Section 27 of the National Health Act, 1945, the local health authority (i.e. the Devon County Council) is responsible for the provision of an Ambulance Service and the Devon Health Committee have arranged for this to be provided through the agency of the St. John Ambulance Association. The Brigade serves Barnstaple Borough and the district around and the headquarters are in Commercial Road, Barnstaple. The staff consists of three paid members (full-time) twenty men volunteers and fourteen volunteer nurses. The Hospital Car Service, also under the Devon County Council, is available upon application to the hospital by the doctor concerned, and the Ambulance Service is empowered to hire cars in urgent cases when the ambulance is not necessary.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME

There are nine district nurses in the area, all of whom act as midwives.

IMMUNIZATION AND VACCINATION

Protective immunization and vaccination against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, smallpox and poliomyelitis, are undertaken by the general practitioners and the Infant Welfare and School Clinics. There are four Infant Welfare Clinics organised by the Devon County Health Authority within the district. These are held as follows:-

Fremington	-	Parish Hall	2nd & 4th Wednesday afternoons
Braunton	-	Parish Hall	Thursday afternoons
Combe Martin	-	Baptist Chapel Rooms	2nd & 4th Tuesday afternoons
Woolacombe	-	Methodist Hall	2nd & 4th Wednesdays.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1953 SECTION 47

During the year one elderly person was removed compulsorily from her home into a hospital. She had lived alone for a number of years being visited periodically by her family who lived a considerable distance away.

During the last two years she had been offered the services of a home help on several occasions and had also declined to enter a County Welfare Home. She was periodically visited by myself, the Health Visitor and the District Nurse. Finally she became ill and bed-ridden and as she was in need of care and attention she was removed to hospital.

HOUSING

During the year thirteen Closing Orders and three Demolition Orders were made by the Council and five families from unfit houses, which were the subject of statutory orders, were rehoused in Council owned accommodation.

Seventeen Council dwellings were erected during the year at Heanton Punchardon, and a further three flats were provided by the conversion of the Police House at Parracombe. Three properties situate at West Down were purchased from the British Railways Board.

Application for Council accommodation totalled 325 at 31st December 1966 (as compared with 248 at December 1965).

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

During the year the following grants were approved for the improvement of old properties:-

	Owner/Occupied	Tenanted	Total
Standard	27	13	40
Discretionary	4	6	10

TELEPHONE: BARNSTAPLE 5781

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
THE RED HOUSE,
CASTLE STREET,
BARNSTAPLE.

To: The Chairman and Members
of the Barnstaple Rural District Council.

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my second Annual Report on the activities of the Public Health Department during 1966.

This was my first complete year in office and inevitably there was an initial settling in period during which I familiarised myself with the widespread areas of the Rural District and the various activities, particularly with regard to the details of the refuse collection and disposal services.

It is not surprising, therefore, that no sensational activity emanated from the Department and matters were not assisted by the fact that, following the resignation of one of the two Additional Public Health Inspectors immediately after I commenced duties, it was not possible for the vacancy to be filled for almost five months until in February Mr G.C. Dunford was a welcome addition to the staff.

Despite these setbacks experienced in the first half of the year, I feel that subsequent activities were a satisfying form of compensation.

For instance, it was a great relief to be able to initiate negotiations for an additional refuse disposal site at Fremington, such negotiations subsequently reaching a satisfactory conclusion and thereby providing space for refuse for some years ahead.

The purchase of suitable refuse disposal equipment was another notable event as were the first steps towards the construction of new premises to replace an existing unsatisfactory slaughterhouse.

I would like to place on record again my appreciation of the co-operative attitude shown to me by members of the Council and the Public Health Committee and, in particular, the helpful and friendly assistance of Mr Chugg, Dr Williams and Mrs Mellows, who ably coped with the clerical work of the Department single handed.

The important public health matters of sewerage and sewage disposal have again been included in this report and I have to thank the Surveyor for the information provided.

I am,

Your obedient Servant

JOHN KEMP
Chief Public Health Inspector

ANNUAL REPORT of the Chief Public Health Inspector

WATER

PUBLIC SUPPLIES

The North Devon Water Board provides a supply of chlorinated mains water to all villages in the Rural District with the exception of Challacombe.

The mains water is distributed to almost all areas from the works at Bratton Fleming. The Brendon area is served by a mains supply from the Lynton water works.

The main reservoir at Wistlandpound has a capacity of 341,000,000 gallons and the Bratton Fleming water works distribute more than 2,000,000 gallons of water per day.

During 1966 water mains were extended in the districts of Heanton Punchardon, Chivenor, Braunton, Putsborough, Croyde, North Buckland, Georgcham, Bishops Tawton and Cobbaton and also to serve new housing development that was proceeding in various areas.

Mains water was provided for 415 dwellings and 44 trade premises, including farms, in the rural area.

PRIVATE SUPPLIES

There is only one major private water supply in the Rural District, which is at Saunton serving approximately 35 properties. There are, however, still numerous isolated dwellings and farms throughout the area which rely on their own supplies which are drawn from wells and springs.

In January the survey of the private supplies serving properties in the area south of Codden Hill, in the parishes of Bishops Tawton and Swimbridge, was completed. All sources were checked and sampled and the information was supplied for use in connection with the projected mains supply for the area, which was subsequently provided. Private supplies were generally inadequate as well as being bacteriologically unsatisfactory.

SAMPLING

The North Devon Water Board arrange for the final water from the Bratton Fleming works to be submitted for bacteriological examination each week. In addition, mains water is sampled regularly throughout the district.

The following summary shows the results of all water samples taken for bacteriological examination during the year in the respective parishes.

PARISH	Public Supply (Taken by N.D.W.B.)		Private Supplies (Taken by B.R.D.C.)	
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Berrynarbor	12	-	-	-
Bishops Tawton	-	-	4	3
Bratton Fleming	97	1	1	1
Braunton	26	-	1	2
Brendon	44	-	-	-
Challacombe	1	-	1	1
Combe Martin	25	3	-	-
Fremington	2 *	-	-	-
Georgeham	23	-	-	-
Goodleigh	-	-	1	-
Heanton Punchardon	4	-	1	2
High Bray	2	-	-	-
Instow	6	-	-	1
Kentisbury	2	-	-	-
Landkey	-	-	1	-
Marwood	12	-	-	-
Mortehoe	33	-	-	-
Parracombe	11	-	-	-
Pilton West	-	-	-	1
Shirwell	10	-	1	-
Stoke Rivers	-	-	1	-
Swinbridge	1	-	1	1
Tawstock	3 +	-	-	-
West Down	9	-	-	-
	323	4	13	12

* Includes 1 sample taken by B.R.D.C. following complaint.

+ Includes 2 samples taken by B.R.D.C. following illness.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

SEWERAGE

The Council owns and operates sewerage systems in the following areas:-

Braunton.

Difficulties continue to arise as a result of faults in the electronic control cabinet at the Vellator sewage works. An application was submitted to the Devon River Authority for permission to construct an emergency overflow at the Pill in order to prevent flooding of the works as has previously occurred in the past when the secondary power supply failed due to these faults. The decision of the River Authority is awaited.

Combe Martin.

The village drains to a sea outfall through which untreated sewage is discharged to the sea below low tide level. The system works entirely by gravity, except for a few properties situate at Newberry Beach, where an ejector lifts the sewage to the gravity sewers. The outfall functions very efficiently and no complaints of nuisance have been received.

The system has no equipment for measuring flows, and the volumes discharged are consequently unknown.

Georgeham and Croyde.

These villages drain by gravity sewers to a pumping station at Croyde Bay where the sewage is passed through macerating pumps and thence into the sea via an outfall off Baggy Point.

The Croyde system is overloaded, particularly during storm time and the pumping equipment is subjected to very heavy wear. Approximate daily flow pumped during the holiday season is 100,000 gallons and during heavy rain up to 300,000 gallons are recorded. This is in addition to considerable flows which discharge into the sea and into the river via storm overflows.

Mortehoe and Woolacombe.

Woolacombe has main drainage facilities in which the sewage is passed via a partial treatment works to a sea outfall. The outfall was found to be in danger of collapse after the winter of 1965 and emergency works, at a cost of just over £2,000 were carried out using sea gabions. Further work will be done in the ensuing year.

At North Morte the sewage is discharged after treatment in the septic tank into a sea outfall at Rockham Beach. During the summer of 1966, this outfall was cleared and cleaned out, having been full of stone and debris for several years, but when carrying out this work it was found that the structure of the pipe had deteriorated to a considerable extent.

The village of Mortehoe is sewered and sewage is pumped from Castle Rock pumping station to the Woolacombe system for treatment.

Parracombe.

The village has a main drainage system constructed in 1960. The works give full biological treatment to the sewage and consistently good analyses of the effluent are obtained.

It is regrettable that a number of property owners have still not availed themselves of the facilities, despite numerous attempts at persuasion.

South Bank Sewerage Scheme.

This system serves the built-up areas of Hele Manor, Oakland Park, Bickington, Fremington, Yelland, Instow and that part of the Borough of Barnstaple which lies to the west of the River Taw. The bulk of the sewage is pumped to the treatment works at Yelland via pumping stations at Anchorwood, Oakland Park, Fremington, Instow A (situated on Instow Front) and Instow B (adjoining the Army depot).

The pumps at Fremington can pass 75,000 gallons per hour. During dry weather the pumps operate for approximately three hours a day, but in storm weather up to twelve to fifteen hours are recorded. For many years considerable wear and tear had been caused to the pumps at Fremington pumping station by faults in the air release system. These faults have now been rectified and an improved efficiency and performance in the pumps has been noticeable.

Large volumes of surface water enter the sewers by the Magdala branch serving Bickington village. The whole of the main road through the village drains to the foul sewers and a storm overflow at Magdala reduces the volume to be dealt with by the pumps. Complaints continue to be received about the fouling of the stream into which the Magdala stormwater overflow discharges. However, nothing can be done to ease the situation until this surface water from the County Council highway is removed from the public sewers. It is anticipated that this will be done when the final stage of the trunk road improvement through Bickington village is carried out.

Saunton.

This is a very old sewerage system which continues to function without apparent nuisance. The sewage gravitates to a large septic tank and the effluent from this tank is distributed by a series of trenches in the sand dunes.

Westleigh.

The village is sewered on the combined system which results in foul sewage and surface water being discharged directly into the River Torridge via a sewer outfall. At present no treatment is provided, but the Council has decided that a sewage works for Westleigh shall be constructed after the current scheme for Milltown/Muddiford is completed.

SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS

Atherington.

All recent samples of final effluent from these works have indicated that purification is achieved to a very high standard.

Berrynarbor.

A small sewage treatment works serves the properties at the southern end of the village. These works are not very efficient and would be abandoned in the event of a new sewerage scheme being provided for Berrynarbor.

Bratton Fleming.

Enormous volumes of surface and infiltration water enter this system and complicates the operation of the plant. The provision of a storm-water treatment tank will be required within the next year, or two, if the standard of the effluent quality is to be maintained at the desired level.

Braunton.

The treatment works constructed in 1965 were designed to treat 280,000 gallons per day dry weather flow. The average dry weather flow received at the works is between 150,000 and 180,000 gallons which indicates a considerable reserve capacity. The settled sewage is discharged into the Pill, the effluent standard remains unsatisfactory and it will be necessary to consider the provision of biological treatment when the sewage from R.I.F. Chivenor, which is expected to be between 55,000 and 70,000 gallons a day, is discharged to the works.

Goodleigh.

The village system includes a treatment works which incorporates a septic tank. This plant has given considerable trouble culminating in a complete breakdown of the biological filters. So far the cause has not been established despite intensive investigation.

Knowle.

The village of Knowle drains to a small pre-war sewage works. The extensions planned in 1965 were carried out by direct labour and the works have functioned satisfactorily with a good effluent quality since that time.

West Down.

Alterations and improvements to this works have been carried out during the year by direct labour and a higher standard of effluent is now being achieved.

Woolacombe.

The sewage from Woolacombe and part of Morteheo is treated at an underground sewage works on the sea front at Woolacombe. The sewage is settled in an upward flow sedimentation tank and the settled liquor is held in a storage tank to be released at the appropriate state of the tide.

Investigations made during the year have revealed an unsatisfactory situation at these works and as an interim measure it is proposed to

install temporary additional works in order to prevent the discharge of solid matter into the sea. This work will be done in time for the 1967 holiday season and only settled sewage will be allowed to drain into the sea.

Yelland.

These works provide for primary settlement only, the settled sewage being discharged into the estuary near the East Yelland Power Station. During the year the under drainage of two additional sludge drying beds was renewed and this has facilitated the more rapid drying of sludge. Four of the six beds have now been provided with efficient under drainage.

The works were designed to treat a dry weather flow of 369,000 gallons and at present is below the design loading by approximately 60,000 gallons a day. During severe storm times flows in excess of 2,250,000 gallons continue to be recorded.

NEW SEWERAGE SCHEMES

Bishops Tawton, Landkey and Swimbridge.

The design of this scheme by the Council's Consulting Engineers, Messrs. Lemon and Blizard, is complete and tenders should be available during the early part of 1967. Unfortunately this scheme was held up as a result of the economic crisis of 1966, but an early start in 1967 is anticipated.

The existing arrangements in these villages are briefly:-

Bishops Tawton.

Approximately fifty properties in the old part of the village drain to a septic tank near the Church and the overflow from this tank discharges into the Venn stream.

One group of approximately ten properties in Easter Street discharge into a septic tank, thence to Venn stream and another group of approximately five properties discharge directly into the stream without any intervening tank.

The new housing estate at Mount Pleasant is served by a full treatment works, the effluent from which discharges into the Venn stream above the railway bridge.

A group of cottages near the hump-back bridge at the bottom of Easter Street discharges foul effluent into the field adjoining the stream from which it percolates over the ground into the stream.

The remainder of the properties in the village have individual septic tanks or cesspools.

Landkey.

The majority of the properties in the village have no water-born drainage facilities and main drainage is urgently required in order that modernisation can proceed.

The Council has two old and inefficient systems serving small groups of properties; one situate opposite the Ring of Bells consists of a septic tank and small filter serving a total of just over thirty dwellings, including the Council estate. The second consists of a very small tank in the field at the rear of Watts' yard, which serves approximately twelve properties. It is impossible in either case to maintain any standard of effluent quality prior to discharge into the stream.

Swimbridge.

The whole of the village is sewered and drains to a septic tank close to the river. Little difficulty is experienced in maintenance and the new scheme provides only for dispensing with the septic tank by the installation of a pumping station.

Milltown and Muddiford.

This scheme is designed and awaits completion of final drawings and contract documents.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The Council owns and maintains public conveniences as follows:-

Braunton (Parish Hall)

Damage to these conveniences is still sustained from time to time, generally as a result of vandalism after local Friday evening dances.

Combe Martin (Seaside, Skirhead, Hollands Park and Kiln Car Park).

The contract for the enlargement of the Kiln car park conveniences was let at the end of the year, and it is hoped to have the work complete before the 1967 summer season begins.

Croyde.

These conveniences are extensively used during the summer months and are no longer adequate to meet the demand. The Council has decided to proceed with the construction of additional facilities at Downend.

Georgeham.

This small block of conveniences, adequate at the time of construction a few years ago, is no longer large enough for the very heavy use which now occurs in the summer. Alternative sites are still being investigated.

Instow.

As in the case of all public conveniences on the coast, these are extensively used during the holiday season.

Woolacombe (Red Barn and Beach)

Plans were prepared and the contract let for the re-building of the Beach conveniences.

Woolacombe (Combesgate and Marine Drive).

Countisbury (County Gate)

During the year plans were prepared and the contract let for the construction of an Elsan system of public conveniences on behalf of the Exmoor National Park Committee.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

COLLECTION

Weekly collections of household refuse were maintained from the majority of premises within the district. The exceptions being in a limited number of small villages and hamlets where a fortnightly collection was made.

From the end of May until the end of September the holiday areas of Instow, Croyde, Georgeham, Woolacombe, Morteohoe, Berrynarbor and Combe Martin were given two collections each week for the benefit of hotels, guest-houses, holiday caravan sites and certain business premises.

It has been the practice to provide caravan sites with internal collections during the summer season when these have been requested and it has been possible to carry them out without difficulty. Charges are made for these special arrangements.

Certain holiday establishments requested additional collections and these were undertaken wherever it was possible with a charge being made.

Special chargeable collections are also carried out at the Army Camps at Fremington and Instow and there is a yearly contract with the Royal Air Force Station at Chivenor.

At R.A.F. Chivenor collections are made daily from the messes, twice weekly from the lines, certain offices and stores, clubs, shops, sick quarters and workshops and weekly from the remainder of the stores, offices, sections, hangers, boiler houses and married quarters.

During the busy summer period, surveys were made of a number of the collection routes and areas where problems arose. Valuable information was obtained whereby it should be possible to reorganise rounds and effect economies.

To ease the problem of the large quantities of refuse to be disposed of, especially during the summer, separate trial collections were made of clean cardboard waste from premises where considerable amounts were encountered. Provisional arrangements were made with local wastepaper merchants for complete lorry loads to be taken direct to their premises. The main reason for the venture was to reduce the bulk of refuse, but it was expected that some income would be forthcoming for the waste material. Unfortunately, little progress was made with the experiment because of the shortage of available vehicles, chiefly due to breakdowns.

The question of full scale salvaging of wastepaper was raised and the Public Health Committee was informed that it was considered that unless a local authority was geared for the collection of this material, with suitable vehicles, balers, equipment and extensive storage space, and the co-operation of the population, the starting of a scheme from scratch was not to be recommended. It was suggested that the Council would be bound to incur a loss, very often Councils did not make a profit from wastepaper collection, at the most usually only covering their outgoings.

Ratepayers with bulky items, or accumulations of refuse to discard, were assisted on numerous occasions during the year.

Additional items of reasonable size were usually collected with the normal refuse without question. Instructions were issued to collect the odd one or two items, such as bicycles, mattresses, etc., after residents had contacted the Department.

Amounts of refuse which were considerable, or bulky items, such as car bodies necessitating a special visit with lorry and crew, were collected from time to time and a charge was made in these instances.

Arrangements were made with a local firm of scrap merchants whereby they would accept any abandoned vehicles that were collected by the Department. Several cars and vans were disposed of in this manner during the year.

LITTER

During the summer months one small vehicle was in full-time use on the collections of litter from the many receptacles that have been provided throughout the area. Where necessary containers were emptied two or three times each week.

Contributions were received towards the costs involved in respect of the collection of litter from the sites within the Exmoor National Park and at laybys on the various main roads within the district.

Permanent litter bins in villages and laybys are mainly a large covered concrete type with wooden fronts, or small concrete ones, particularly in the shopping areas of Braunton and Woolacombe and at bus stops.

Metal drum containers are mainly used in remote areas and those districts frequented by summer visitors. They are brought back to the depot for the winter for overhaul and repainting where necessary. These utilitarian receptacles may not be particularly attractive, but they are cheap, convenient and practically indestructible and are regarded as being the most suitable for their present use.

DISPOSAL

The use of sites at Claypit Coverts, Fremington and Berry Down, Berry Harbor for the tipping of refuse continued throughout the year. It became increasingly apparent that all space on the main tip at Fremington would probably be filled before the end of 1966.

Refuse from Brendon and Countisbury and other areas in the north eastern part of the district is deposited at the Lyn Down tip of the Lynton Urban District Council and an appropriate annual payment is made to that authority.

Considerable time was spent on the examination of likely areas for the establishment of refuse tips in the various parts of the district

throughout the year, particularly within four or five miles of Braunton. Notices were inserted in the local press requesting details of any land that could be made available in the Braunton area, but there was no response.

In January an offer of land for use as a tip, in the form of a disused quarry at Hannaford, Swimbridge, was made. The site was inspected and although far from ideal, it was felt that it could conveniently be used for refuse from the Landkey and Swimbridge areas. Application was made for planning permission, but this was refused, chiefly because of the poor access to the quarry.

It was imperative that a site was found to replace the Fremington tip without undue delay and in April and May discussion took place with a member of the family owning land adjoining the existing tip with a view to its possible extension. The outcome was an offer of the use of some twenty acres of Claypit Coverts in the vicinity of Combrew. Planning permission was eventually granted, but at the end of the year it had not been possible to enter the land for any preparatory works due to a combination of circumstances, including the death of the head of the family, a change of ownership of land involved, and the finalising of the necessary agreement.

A continuing nuisance from indiscriminate dumping of all types of rubbish and articles in a small quarry at Shirwell was dealt with by way of the farmer agreeing to the complete filling of the site with refuse. As well as controlling any nuisance, it is a convenient point for refuse from surrounding areas and will eventually lead to the reclamation of useless land.

The Berry Down tip was seriously affected with fire on two occasions during the summer. The depth of the tip face made control extremely difficult and considerable time was spent dealing with this hazard. The fire was eventually completely extinguished following the construction by the Department's Foreman of an ingenious water carriage system from old piping and guttering which fed the tip face with water diverted from a spring.

Because of the tip's situation at the head of a deep valley following an appreciable gradient, the covering of refuse at Berry Down has been a problem. There is no soil available and so, as soon as it was possible, a start was made on the excavation of old refuse to use as covering material, and this also provided additional tipping space. The methods of tipping were changed and it was possible to complete the covering of a part of the tip which until then had not been practicable.

Fire also broke out on the Fremington tip at several times during the year. The Council's cesspool emptying vehicle was used most successfully as a water carrier.

VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT

Following my recommendation that the acquisition of a replacement tracked vehicle for tip control work should be urgently considered and the visit by a Sub-Committee to Langport R.D.C. to see a model of the suggested tractor in action on this work, a Bristol Taurus front loading tractor was

purchased. This was delivered in May and it was possible to dispose advantageously of a 1958 Bristol 25 tractor, which was not in working order, by way of part exchange and an allowance of £250 was given. This powerful and compact machine enabled the standard of tip control to be raised considerably and the amount of soil and refuse excavation carried out, particularly at Berry Down tip, would not have been possible without this equipment.

The transporting of this 5 ton tractor between tips when required is effected by the use of a six wheeled low loading trailer purchased with the original Bristol tractor in 1958. The trailer was basically sound, but in a neglected condition and therefore it was given a thorough overhaul and repaired. The 1958 Bedford/Eagle side loading refuse vehicle was fitted with towing equipment made detachable so that the lorry could still be used for refuse collection.

The 1962 Fordson Major four wheel drive tractor, equipped with a bucket, was retained. Although not particularly robust, it was regarded as still being of use because of its mobility and being able to travel under its own power to other tips, as well as being a reserve unit. It has the disadvantage of being prone to punctures, which have caused considerable waste of time in the past.

There were no new vehicles, or withdrawals from the refuse collection fleet during the year. Details follow of the various machines in use, all of which are powered with diesel engines. The last two columns show the actual mileage covered by each vehicle in 1966, together with the average fuel consumption, expressed in miles per gallon.

<u>Make and Type</u>	<u>Capacity</u>	<u>Mileage</u>	<u>M.P.G.</u>
* 1963 Shelvoke & Drewry Pakamatic	50 cu.yd.	7,110	7
+ 1965 Bedford/Eagle Crushload	35 cu.yd.	10,254	8
x 1961 Shelvoke & Drewry Fore & Aft Tipper	14 cu.yd.	12,500E	9
x 1960 Shelvoke & Drewry Fore & Aft Tipper	12 cu.yd.	15,000E	10
1958 Bedford/Eagle Side Loader	10 cu.yd.	11,882	13
R 1955 Bedford/Eagle Side Loader	10 cu.yd.	6,000+	12
1965 Ford/Homalloy Rear Loader	5 cu.yd.	16,620	24
1962 Ford/Eagle Side Loader	3 cu.yd.	14,656	25

* Fitted with hydraulic ram for compression.

+ Fitted with hydraulic crushing & compression rams.

x Fitted with hydraulic compression plate.

R Reserve vehicle.

E Estimated mileage.

The modern refuse vehicle fitted with equipment for the compression of refuse requires more attention than its predecessor and so it was that after nearly three years service the working surfaces of the loading hopper of the Pakamatic were becoming due for replacement. It was intended that the repairs should be carried out before the heavy demands of the summer season, but as the vehicle had to return to the maker's works for at least a fortnight for the necessary modifications, its release was dependant upon the

loan of another lorry. The firm experienced difficulties regarding this loan and so eventually after the season had finished, I decided that services could be maintained without a replacement vehicle. The Pakamatic was away for three weeks during October and November and fortunately no breakdowns occurred during its absence and so, with the co-operation of the personnel, collections were carried out as usual. As the vehicle had then been in service three and a quarter years, the opportunity was taken for the manufacturers to give it a full test and examination and carry out any necessary repairs, or replacements before its return.

The wearing surfaces of the crushing and compression mechanism of the Crushload vehicle had to be renewed after only a years service and fortunately it was possible to have this work carried out under the guarantee.

A difficult problem of wear and tear was experienced with the small Ford vehicle when it was less than a year old and had travelled only 15,000 miles, in that the chassis members were found to be buckled and fractured. It was obvious that the light weight chassis was subject to overloading when the body was filled with refuse and, as the truck had been supplied to the Council's specification, there was no case for claim against the manufacturers of the body, or chassis. The chassis was subsequently repaired and strengthened on more than one occasion during the year.

None of the vehicles had any handwashing facilities for the crews and so the two large lorries were equipped with waterless hand cleanser dispensers and paper towel containers. Because the cleanser is in a semi-liquid form, no water is necessary and the compact units take up the minimum space in the cabs. The equipment was appreciated by the personnel and it is intended to equip all the vehicles in due course.

In December it was requested that consideration be given to the purchase of a new refuse collection vehicle early in 1967.

PERSONNEL

The Public Health Department labour force totals twenty one and comprises a foreman, seven driver/loaders, twelve collectors and a tractor operator.

We are fortunate in having a good set of workers who quietly keep the service functioning throughout the year, particularly during the short summer season when their task is considerably increased.

It is significant I feel that a number of the men have worked for the Council for several years and pleasing to note that staff changes were few during 1966. One loader resigned, and was subsequently re-employed, another resigned and later requested to be considered for further employment. One loader aged sixty two had to retire because of ill health after twelve years service.

In August one of the loaders was knocked down by a car on the dual carriageway at Ashford and was very lucky indeed to only have his arm broken. He was away from work for the rest of the year.

Complaints regarding the refuse collection service were few and this must be regarded as a tribute to the men carrying out this heavy work in all kinds of weather.

HOUSING

Steady progress was maintained in the inspection of dwellings that were likely to be unfit for human habitation by the standards of the Housing Act, 1957 and at almost all the meetings of the Public Health Committee held during 1966 reports were submitted on houses that were not considered to be capable of being made fit at reasonable cost. This action invariably resulted in the making of Closing Orders, Demolition Orders, or the submission of Undertakings from owners.

The majority of the properties were worthy of retention and suitable for modernisation and owners were encouraged to consider seriously such action wherever appropriate. It was gratifying to find that proposals for repair and improvement were forthcoming in a number of instances.

It will be appreciated that the speed at which unfit houses are dealt with must be related to the availability of suitable alternative accommodation for those persons who will be displaced.

HOUSES IN CLEARANCE AREAS AND UNFIT HOUSES ELSEWHERE

Houses Demolished

Under Sections 16 & 17 (1) of the Housing Act, 1957 1

Unfit Houses Closed

Under Sections 16 (4), 17 (1) and 35(1) of the Housing Act, 1957 and Section 26 of the 1961 Housing Act. . 10

Persons Displaced

From houses to be demolished	.	.	.	.	.	3
From houses to be closed	.	.	.	.	.	16

Families Displaced

From houses to be demolished	.	.	.	.	.	1
From houses to be closed	.	.	.	.	.	4

CARAVAN SITES

Holiday Caravan Sites throughout the district are inspected regularly during the summer season to ensure that all conditions appertaining to the site licences are being observed and these inspections entail a considerable proportion of the time of the public health inspectors.

Details are also recorded of the number of caravans stationed on sites during the months of June, July and August. The information is obtained for the County Planning Officer for use in conjunction with his annual survey of the caravanning and holiday trends and development in Devon.

LICENSED SITES

Details are given hereunder of the main licensed sites under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960. The majority are holiday caravan sites where caravans are permitted to be used for human habitation only during the period from March to October in each year, and touring caravans are not allowed to remain on the sites for periods longer than three weeks. There are, of course, no such restrictions for residential sites.

PARISH	CARAVAN SITE	CARAVANS		
		Total	Touring	Residential
ASHFORD	Midland Caravan Site	63		-
BERRYNARBOR	Berrynarbor Trailer Park	50		6
	Indicknowle Farm	5		-
	The Napps	20	20	-
	Sandaway Caravan Park	90		-
	Watermouth Caves	69		-
BRAUNTON	Dune View Caravan Park	56		34
	Lobb Field	50	50	-
	Score Farm	22	-	22
COMBE MARTIN	Glenavon Holiday Park	100	-	-
FREMINGTON	Bickington Caravan Site	35	-	35
	Lagoon View, Yelland	200		5
GEORGEHAM	Barn Lawn (Croyde.	2		-
	Burrows Mead Caravan Park,	150		-
	Down End Caravan Park, Croyde	30		6
	Lyncroft Farm, North Buckland	4		-
	Putsborough Sands	20		-
	Ruda Caravan Park, Croyde	280		1
	Seabirds Park, Croyde	6		-
GOODLEIGH	Riversmead, Snapper	20	20	-
HEANTON	Chivenor Cross	25	25	-
PUNCHARDON				
KENTISBURY	Kentisbury Grange	61		-
LANDKEY	Mount View	24		24
MORTEHOE	Cleavewood Caravan Park	80		-
	Fortescue	21	6	1
	North Morte Farm	73		-
	Pine Cones Caravan Park	50		-
	Twitchen House	275		-
	Woolacombe Sands Caravan Park	70		-
	Woolacombe Bay Caravan Park	245		-
PARRACOMBE	Lorna Doone Farm	20	20	-

Various other sites have been granted licences, mostly for one caravan only and none for more than three caravans. These sites are distributed in the following parishes:-

PARISH	SITE	USE
..therington	1	Holiday
Berrynarbor	1	Holiday
Combe Martin	3	2 Residential & 1 Holiday
Fremington	1	Residential and touring
Goodleigh	1	Residential
Heanton Punchardon	1	Residential
High Bray	1	Residential
Kentisbury	1	Holiday
Landkey	1	Residential
Martinhoe	1	Holiday
Mortehoe	4	3 Holiday & 1 agricultural
Shirwell	1	Residential

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MEAT INSPECTION

This important, but exacting and time consuming local authority function, was carried out in the four slaughterhouses within the district throughout the year in accordance with the requirements of the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963, as far as the arrangements with the firm of local veterinary surgeons permitted. The number of animals killed, notably sheep and lambs, continued to increase.

The Fremington Slaughterhouse, which was enlarged last year, increased its throughput, but this was still below its possible maximum.

The other major slaughterhouse continued to operate under conditions that do not permit the higher standards of hygiene to be achieved. The buildings have unsatisfactory features that cannot be easily rectified.

It was therefore encouraging that the proprietors were once again actively pursuing the possibilities of building a new slaughterhouse early in the new year. By April a suitable site in the Rookabear area of Fremington, less than $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the existing premises, had been provisionally selected and informal discussions took place with officers of the Rural District Council and the Devon River Authority. By October an application for outline planning permission had been made. The year closed with the position as it has been for several years now, an impossibility to comply with all the construction regulations, but a good chance that 1967 might be the last year of operations at the old slaughterhouse.

The two smaller slaughterhouses at Branton and Swimbridge continued in use. Both are used in conjunction with butchery businesses and generally are regarded as satisfactory.

The two major slaughterhouses cater largely for markets and traders in the London area and therefore operate on Saturdays and Sundays, which necessitates attendance by inspectors on those days. Meat inspection can usually be carried out within normal hours during the rest of the week.

During the year local authorities were given the power to control times at which slaughtering takes place, but they were advised to negotiate informally with slaughterhouse proprietors and not to use their powers unless absolutely necessary to ensure the full inspection of meat before it leaves the slaughterhouse. When approached, the proprietors of both major slaughterhouses agreed to restrict slaughtering at weekends, whenever possible, particularly on Sundays, and therefore the need for control was deferred to ascertain the effect of these promises on weekend slaughtering.

The cost of the meat inspection service had been a cause of concern to the members of the Council and so in January a joint report was made to the Finance and General Purposes Committee by the Treasurer and myself with the suggestion that all meat inspection should be undertaken by

the Public Health Department instead of by arrangement whereby the Council's Meat Inspector was regularly supplemented by the services of a firm of local veterinary surgeons.

In due course the Public Health Committee was recommended to consider the employment of additional staff, consisting of one Public Health Inspector and one Meat Inspector as a minimum requirement. It is felt that there was general agreement on this procedure until the veterinary surgeons offered to accept a reduced payment for their services. Their employment was consequently continued on a slightly altered basis.

1966 commenced with the Council's Meat Inspector and the veterinary surgeons sharing the duties at the two major slaughterhouses and alternating between them. Following the alterations to the fees paid to the veterinary surgeons, they requested to undertake all the meat inspection at the Roundswell slaughterhouse. This was agreed, except that the Meat Inspector should undertake this duty at Roundswell for one week in each month to enable some very limited form of control to be retained over standards of hygiene. This arrangement, although not entirely satisfactory, continued throughout the year.

The Meat Inspector also undertook the inspections necessary at the two smaller slaughterhouses.

The Public Health Inspectors shared weekend meat inspection duties with the Meat Inspector, so that each Inspector was on duty one weekend in three. The Public Health Inspectors also carried out the Meat Inspector's work during periods of leave.

The advantages of employing an officer solely to work at slaughterhouses were realised by the additional time he was able to spend on the supervision of standards of hygiene and persuading slaughterhouse proprietors to keep their premises in a more reasonable state of cleanliness. The veterinary surgeons only inspect the meat and do not concern themselves with standards of hygiene.

The number of animals killed at the four licensed slaughterhouses during the past three years are shown below and it will be seen that the throughputs have continued to increase. The number of sheep and lambs killed during 1966 were 13,000 more than in 1965. The number of pigs was reduced by half, but the number of calves was almost doubled.

	1964	1965	1966
Beasts	2015	2418	1902
Calves	1376	1777	3118
Pigs	10190	13921	6988
Sheep	86605	119321	132515
Total throughput	100186	137437	144523

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle excluding Cows:	Cows:	Calves:	Pigs:	Sheep:
Number of animals killed	1574	328	3118	6988	132515
Number of carcasses examined	1574	328	3118	6988	132515
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned:	4	14	67	6	602
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned:	467	163	26	443	17356
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis or cysticerci:	29.92	53.96	2.98	6.43	13.55
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned:	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned:	-	-	-	158	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis:	-	-	-	2.26	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned:	6	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration:	6	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned:	-	-	-	-	-

FOOD PREMISES

Routine inspections of all types of premises associated with food trades were carried out during the year with particular attention being given to catering establishments in the holiday areas of the district. A number of businesses were found to be lacking essential facilities, such as wash-hand basins, sinks and hot water supplies.

The following list details the types of food premises within the district and is classified in accordance with the principal business of the various traders:-

Bakers and Confectioners	...	...	8
Butchers	...	...	17
Cafes and Canteens	...	...	54
Confectioner & Ice-Cream Retailers	...	...	33
Fishmongers and Fish Friers	...	...	7
Greengrocers	...	...	10
Grocers	...	...	102
Hotels	...	...	34
Licensed Premises	...	...	49
			314

ICE-CREAM

Thirty three samples of soft and loose ice-cream from machines and bulk containers at various retailers' premises and vehicles were obtained during the summer season for bacteriological examination and submitted to the Methylene Blue reduction test.

On two occasions in August and September whole mornings were spent on the inspection of premises and vehicles and the obtaining and dispatching of samples to the Exeter Public Health Laboratory. We were subsequently informed that the samples did not reach the laboratory in time to be examined. It appears that the fault lay somewhere between the laboratory's collection system and the handling of parcels at Exeter St. Davids Station. Unfortunately both are beyond our control.

The results of those samples tested are as follows:-

Producer	Provisional Grade				Total
	1	2	3	4	
A	1	2	1	2	6
B	4	2	-	-	6
C	-	1	-	1	2
Totals	5	5	1	3	14
The majority of samples from any one producer should fall into Grade 1 or 2.					

Where unsatisfactory results were obtained advice was given on the cleansing and sterilisation of serving equipment and repeat samples proved to be satisfactory.

OFFICES AND SHOPS

The recent legislation governing the health, safety and welfare of office and shop workers is complicated to say the least and involves detailed inspections of premises to check on such items as cleanliness, overcrowding, temperatures, ventilation, lighting, sanitary conveniences, washing facilities, drinking water, clothing accommodation, sitting facilities, eating facilities, first-aid equipment and the condition of floors, passages and stairs.

Until this year progress on the initial inspections had been rather limited and it would appear that other matters had been receiving priority. Therefore, as soon as the replacement Public Health Inspector commenced duties, he was assigned to the task of carrying out the necessary inspections as rapidly as possible.

It was realised that there were still premises that had not been registered with the local authority although this should have been done by 31st July, 1964 and further visits were therefore made to likely defaulters as it was deemed imperative to know the possible maximum total of premises to assess the magnitude of the task of inspection and administration.

Inspections proceeded reasonably well although, because of their complicated nature, they were not carried out during the holiday season as it was considered that they would be an unreasonable interruption of business activities.

REGISTRATION AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

The following details cannot easily be related to the information
(continued overleaf)

Class of Premises:	Premises registered during the year	Total registered premises	General inspection during the year
Offices	2	23	5
Retail Shops	15	83	16
Wholesale shops and warehouses	-	2	-
Catering establishments	5	27	1
Fuel storage depots	-	1	-
Totals:	22	136	22

FACTORIES

There are 56 premises within the district registered as factories.

Notifications have been received of 30 persons within this district who undertake work in their homes in connection with the making of wearing apparel.

RODENT CONTROL

Following a report on the duties of the Public Health Department prepared in March, it was agreed that the Rodent Operative should undertake the treatment of infestations of rats and mice at residential premises throughout the district. Previously he had been acting in an advisory capacity carrying out treatment only on local authority premises.

The practice of giving advice on the treatment of infestations was continued in respect of business and agricultural premises and occupiers were referred, where necessary, to private firms carrying out rodent control work in the area.

All the sewage disposal works and refuse tips were visited regularly and treatments carried out whenever necessary. The laying of test baits in sewers at Swimbridge, Braunton, Georgeham, and Woolacombe was carried out in April and May and October and November. The results showed that there was slight activity in each of the systems, but poison baiting and the subsequent follow-up visits dealt with the infestations.

In addition, the district received general surveys with particular attention being paid to known sources of infestation and previously infested properties.

Details of properties inspected in connection with infestations are as follows:-

	Type of Property		
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural	Total
Properties Inspected:			
(a) After notification	146	5	151
(b) On survey	327	54	381
Properties found to be infested by:			
(a) Rats	158	15	173
(b) Mice	10	6	16

WASTE FOOD PLANTS

The duties of licensing and supervising plants and equipment used for the boiling of waste foods for animal feeding are carried out under delegated powers from the Devon County Council.

At the end of the year there were eleven premises in use all of which were inspected during the year.

BOARDING KENNELS

Two premises within the district are licensed and required to be inspected to ensure that they are suitable for boarding animals.

Both were inspected during the year and conditions were regarded as satisfactory.

PETROLEUM

Eighty-eight licences were granted to keep petroleum spirit at various premises throughout the district.

The quantities of petroleum stored ranged from 100 gallons to 1,500,000 gallons. The licences issued permitted the storage of a total of 1,751,150 gallons.

EXPLOSIVES

Thirty six licences to keep gunpowder and mixed explosives were issued in respect of various premises within the district. These were mainly for the storage of fireworks.

PLEASURE BOATS

The licensing of pleasure boat proprietors and boatmen and the inspection of boats plying for hire, chiefly from the beaches at Combe Martin and Instow, was carried out in connection with twenty four vessels.

Inspections were made regularly during the season to ensure that the conditions of licences were being observed, particularly with regard to the carrying of passengers to ensure that the permitted number was not exceeded.

INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

The following is a summary of the main inspections and visits made by members of the staff of the Public Health Department during 1966.

Visits vary in duration from minutes to hours, but by grouping them under the more important headings a useful guide is given of the proportion of time spent on the multifarious activities of the Department.

Water supplies - public	...	...	9
- private	...	...	35
Swimming pools	...	...	27
Drainage	...	...	764
Caravans	...	...	299
Camping	...	...	69
Refuse collection	...	...	263
Refuse disposal	...	...	248
Litter	...	...	160

Rodent Control	...	...	...	722
Factories	...	...	...	18
Smoke	...	...	...	6
Dust	...	...	...	4
Nuisances	...	...	...	72
Offensive trades	...	...	...	1
Noise	...	...	...	21
Housing - Public Health Act			...	41
- Housing Act	...	...	...	123
Verminous premises	...	...	...	35
Animals	...	...	...	5
Infectious diseases	...	...	...	11
Meat inspection	...	...	...	790
Food inspection	...	...	...	39
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	34
Butchers	...	...	...	26
Bakehouses	...	...	...	3
Confectioners	...	...	...	12
Fishmongers	...	...	...	4
Grocers	...	...	...	61
Greengrocers	...	...	...	7
Ice-cream premises	...	...	...	52
Cafes and hotels	...	...	...	50
School kitchens	...	...	...	3
Licensed premises	...	...	...	16
Mobile shops	...	...	...	6
Offices and shops	...	...	...	105
Waste Food Order	...	...	...	32
Animal Boarding establishments			...	7
Petroleum	73
Pleasure Boats	49
Betting, Gaming and Lotteries			...	18
Miscellaneous	12

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